



REFERENCE:

COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

CHIEF J. ALLAN, CHAIRMAN
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PLUMMER, IDAHO 83851
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September 2, 2005

Board of Commissioners
Benewah County
701 College Avenue
St. Maries, ID 83868

Dear Commissioners:

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) has existed as a sovereign government long before the creation of the United States of America and the creation of Idaho as the forty-third state on July 3, 1890. The Federal government formally recognized the Tribe as a sovereign government when President Ulysses S. Grant signed an executive order delineating the boundaries of the reservation in 1873. In previous years, the Tribe has respected the sovereignty of both the state and local governments as they have moved forward in the process of governance. As a sovereign government, the Tribe expects no less respect from both the state and local governments as it governs in the best interest of all that choose to call the Coeur d'Alene Reservation home.

Through proactive and progressive action, the Tribe has benefited greatly from the Federal government's Indian self-determination policies. The Tribe has been able to be a primary provider of Indian and non-Indian people's health, safety, and welfare. The Tribe is also a large contributor to the region's economic prosperity through sustained economic development, investment in community activities, and contributions to local governments, including your county. Because of this, the Tribe is able to enhance the daily lives of many people in the region and should be recognized respectfully for its many contributions to the local communities.

The Tribe and the Chairman have always had an open-door policy for those who wish to work cooperatively with the Tribe on issues of governance. As Chairman, I would like to reiterate the Tribe's policy of open communication and dialogue on issues for which we share a common interest. Recently, the Tribe was dismayed to learn about disparaging comments made by your county commissioners at a recent meeting held in northern Idaho. The Tribe asserts that these comments are not constructive to furthering inter-governmental relations between your county and the Tribe. The Tribe does not wish to see your county as an adversary as it proceeds ahead in pursuing policies that will greatly benefit all the residents of northern Idaho.

The Tribe encourages you as county commissioners to approach the Tribe on issues that you should need assistance addressing. Participation will be forthcoming from the Tribe if approached in a respectful and professional manner. Should you need to get in touch

with me please contact my legislative director, Quanah Spencer, at (208) 686-0803 or e-mail at qspencer@cdatribe-nsn.gov. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chief J. Allan", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief J. Allan, Chairman
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Cja:qms